the mid air collision on November 12, 1996 in Haryana with a view to ensure smooth and speedy settlement of compensation claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made by the above cell so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to provide legal assistance to the next of kin of the victims of the aircrash in settling claims of compensation with the Saudi Airlines. A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made for meeting the expenses in this regard.

Licence for Granite Quarrying

1048. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has given licences to various agencies to carry out survey and to go ahead with granite quarrying the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) and (b) Granite has been traditionally a minor mineral as per the provisions of Section 3(e) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and as such the grant of mineral concessions for Granite is guided by the rules framed by the respective State Governments for the purpose. The Central Government does not monitor the grant of mineral concessions for minor minerals.

(c) and (d) In view of the tremendous potential of Granite Development, the Central Government constituted Granite Development Council in 1995. The Council further constituted a Sub-Group to look into the issues related to development of Granite in the Country. Report of the Sub-Group on Granite Development has been presented to the Granite Development Council and the Conference of the State Ministers/Secretaries of Mining and Geology in December, 1996.

ABB Electric Locomotives

1049. SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ABB electric locomotives have so far been arrived in the country;

(b) whether such locomotives were distributed to the Zonal Railways or kept at New Delhi;

(c) whether trial run have been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such locos are performing well according to our climate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 10 Passenger and 20 freight locomotives have already arrived. In addition; one passenger and two freight locomotives have arrived as bank of spares.

(b) The passenger locomotives have been homed at Electric loco shed Ghaziabad on Northern Railway and the freight locomotives at Electric loco shed Gomoh on Eastern Railway.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Oscillation trials for passenger locomotives at 145 kmph test speed have been completed and locomotives have been put in regular service.

The freight locos are also in regular operation at 60/65 kmph. The Oscillation trials at 110 kmph test speed are planned shortly.

(e) and (f) The performance of the locos has been satisfactory except minor teething problems which are associated with any new technology and the same are being attended to by M/s ABB. Performance of these locos is being closely watched.

Collision of Matador with New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express

1050. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Matador van collided with New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express at Dadri near Ghaziabad on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the total number of accidents that have taken place at the manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country during each of the three years and the number of human lives lost therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government after the recent level crossing accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 26.12.96, a mini bus entered level crossing No. 148 'C' between Maripat and Dadri Stations on Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section of Allahabad Division of Northern Railway at about 07.26 hours and dashed against train No. 2004 Dn New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express which was on run in the Section.